Laura McPherson
2032 Belmont Rd., NW, #620
Washington, DC 20009

September 26, 2002

16930

Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
District of Columbia Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Griffis:

As an employee of the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) and a resident of the District of Columbia, I am writing to request approval of a new 12-story commercial building to be located at 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW to serve as the Washington headquarters of NAR.

The National Association of Realtors®, the largest trade association in the world with more than 850,000 members, is affirming its commitment to participate actively in the District of Columbia on federal policy with the presence of its new $45 million building on Capitol Hill within three blocks of the U.S. Capitol.

NAR's decision to construct its Washington, D.C., headquarters on Capitol Hill will also bring considerable revenues and employment opportunities to the city. NAR will once again be a major property owner in the District of Columbia. In addition to NAR occupying the building, 8 floors will be leased to other businesses and 2 retail outlets will be housed on the ground floor.

This new commercial building will help revitalize the neighborhood, where several vacant lots currently sit idle. While many other areas of the city are undergoing dramatic revitalization, this is an opportunity to dramatically improve a corner lot that is in close proximity to the nation's Capitol. In addition to providing some needed shops, businesses located in the building will provide more incentive for other services to locate in the area. Developing this idle land will help bring more cohesiveness to the community, providing further safety to those who frequent establishments in the neighborhood.

The design concept was created by Graham Gund and Associates, an internationally renowned architectural firm, and applauded by some of the most prominent architects in the Washington, D.C., area. The dramatic and modern design of the new building will be aesthetically pleasing and set a new standard for the Capitol Hill area, while respecting the diversity of the community and its neighbors. The new building demonstrates caring for the environment and will serve as an example for future construction.

BZA
Case No. 16930
Exhibit No. 34

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16930
EXHIBIT NO.34

I hope that you will take an active role in advocating the positive contributions that this new building would bring to the District, and in particular, the NJ Avenue area just northwest of the Capitol. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura McPherson

Cc: Real Property Operations Committee c/o Richard Rosenthal
National Association of Realtors
430 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago IL 60611-4087